

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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R 011658Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1425

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 26800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PFOR, TO

SUBJECT: STATUS OFFICIAL PARTY ENHANCED:

EYADEMA CONTINUES UNFOLDING HIS HAND

REF: (A) LOME 2605, (B) LOME 2585, (C) LOME 2559,

BEGIN SUMMARY: RPT CONGRESS VALIDATES ENHANCEMENT IN STATUS OF PARTY. POLITBURO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE REVAMPED AND GIVEN MORE AUTHORITY. EYADEMA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHIFT SOME OF HIS PERSONAL CHARISMA TO PARTY. ARMY, NEVERTHELESS, CONTINUES TO BE GUARANTOR OF TOGOLESE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS BUT RECEDES SOMEWHAT INTO SHADOWS. GENERAL OUTLINE TOGOLESE THIRD WORLD FOREIGN POLICY RE-VALIDATED. AGRICULTURE EMPHASIZED AS LEADING ECONOMIC PRIORITY. GENERAL STRESS PUT ON SELF-RELIANCE AND NECESSITY FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO RETAIN TOGOLESE "AUTHENTICITY." CONGRESS OUTCOME SHOULD NOT BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN PRESENT U.S.-TOGOLESE RELATIONS.

END SUMMARY.

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1. SECOND STATUTORY PARTY CONGRESS OF OFFICIAL RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS (RPT) TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 26-29 IN LAMA KARA. CONGRESS HAD BEEN TOUTED AS LIKELY SCENE OF IMPORTANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTELS) THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL FROM POLITICAL LIFE. SUBSEQUENT PARTY-ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATIONS CLAMORING AGAINST SUCH WITHDRAWAL AND EYADEMA'S BOW TO "POPULAR VERDICT" BY AGREEING TO STAY ON IN POWER HAVE HAD HEAVY TOUCH OF THEATER BUT THERE NO QUESTION THAT LAMA KARA CONGRESS BEGAN IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF A RENEWED PUBLIC MANDATE FOR EYADEMA RULE.

2. IN HIS SPEECHES DURING CONGRESS EYADEMA REVIEWED WITH PRIDE POLITICAL STABILITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RPT "NEW DEAL" HAD BROUGHT TO NATION. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED BASIC THEME THAT PARTY SHOULD BE GIVEN PLACE OF PRIORITY IN ALL TOGOLESE INSTITUTIONS.

3. STRUCTURAL CHANGE ACCORDING PLACE OF POLITICAL PRIORITY TO PARTY BUT INCORPORATING INTO REVAMPED POLITBURO LEADING TECHNOCRATS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MAJOR RESULT OF CONGRESS. RELEVANT RESOLUTION STATES IN PART: "...THE NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU SHALL BE PLACED ABOVE THE GOVERNMENT." HOWEVER, NEW POLITBURO REDUCED FROM FOURTEEN TO NINE MEMBERS IS DEFT MIXTURE OF PARTY IDEOLOGUES AND LEADING CABINET MINISTERS INCLUDING RESPECTED MINISTER OF MINES MIVEDOR, EQUALLY RESPECTED FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PRESENT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KODJO AND EYADEMA-HENCHMEN MINISTER OF PLAN DOGO AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION MALOU. PRACTICAL RESULT HAS BEEN INCREASE IN STATURE OF POLITBURO BUT ALSO FORMATION OF A TYPE OF "INNER CABINET."

4. EIGHT OTHER CABINET MINISTERS ARE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF REVAMPED TWENTY-TWO MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IT OF INTEREST THAT FOUR NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE WOMEN.
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5. ARMY'S ROLE IN LEADING PARTY ORGANS DECEPTIVE. EYADEMA IS ONLY ARMY MEMBER OF NINE-MEMBER POLITBURO. HOWEVER, COLONEL DJAFALO WHO IS ACTING PRESIDENT IN ABSENCE OF EYADEMA AND WAS PREVIOUSLY MEMBER POLITBURO NOW BECOMES INSTEAD MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE. DJAFALO MOVE CAN BE SEEN AS ELEVATION PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE RATHER THAN

HIS DEMOTION. ANOTHER SUBTLE MOVE TO KEEP MILITARY FINGER ON PARTY PULSE IS PLACEMENT OF COLONEL ASSILA, REPORTED TO BE ARMY'S POLITICAL THINKER, ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE. (EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW POLITBURO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY AIRGRAM.)

6. CONGRESS PAID ONLY PERFUNCTORY ATTENTION TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS. RELEVANT RESOLUTION LISTED STANDARD ELEMENTS TOGO'S THIRD WORLD POSITION; HOWEVER, RESOLUTION EXPRESSED "UNRESERVED SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVES WHICH TEND TO FAVOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE..."

7. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, STRONG EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON ABSOLUTE PRIORITY OF INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. ECONOMIC LIBERALISM WAS ENDORSED WITH PROVISIO THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO ASSURE THU ACCESS OF TOGOLESE TO THE DISTRIBUTION SECTOR. CAUTION WAS EXPRESSED, HOWEVER, AGAINST XENOPHOBIC CAMPAIGNS AGAINST NON-NATIONALS (READ LEBANESE) IN SUCH TRADE. (THERE 21 SPECIFIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESOLUTIONS AND EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE TEXTUAL ANALYSIS BY AIRGRAM.)

8. COMMENT: CONGRESS ENDED BY DISGORGING SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WRITTEN MATERIAL WHICH WILL TAKE SOME STUDY TO ASCERTAIN UNDERLYING POLICY DIRECTIONS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL THINGS APPEAR CLEAR: (1) A STRUCTURAL CHANGE HAS BEEN VAPIDATED IN TOGOLESE POLITICS IN WHICH RPT HAS BEEN SET FORTH AS PRIMORDIAL SOURCE OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY; (2) EYADEMAS HAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS THROUGH CONFERRING HIS OWN CHARISMA ON PARTY; (3) PARTY THUS BECOMES POTENTIAL MECHANISM FOR SUCCESSION; (4) ARMY CONFIDENTIAL

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MEANWHILE REMAINS BASE OF EYADEMA'S STRENGTH AND AUTHORITY BUT STAGE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SET FOR GRADUAL TRANSITION TOWARD EVENTUAL CIVILIANIZATION OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY; (5) FINALLY, POLITBURO HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED IN AUTHORITY AND COMPETENCE WHICH SUGGESTS THAT EYADEMA MAY SEEK TO USE THIS STRUCTURE FOR ACCOMPLISHING RUMORED "ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS" (INCLUDING REPORTED CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT).

9. NOTHING IN RPT CONGRESS APPEARS TO FORESHADOW ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN TOGO WHICH WOULD CHANGE PRESENT NATURE OF U.S.-TOGOLESE RELATIONSHIP.
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